What Is Claimed Is:

1   1.   A method for facilitating magnification of a target region within a

2   field of view through use of a magnifier, wherein a magnification level of the

3   magnifier is coupled to motion of the magnifier, the method comprising:

4   receiving a movement command from a user to move a location of the

5   magnifier within the field of view; and

6   in response to the movement command, reducing the magnification factor

7   of the magnifier, so that a larger portion of the field of view becomes visible

8   within the magnifier to facilitate navigating the magnifier to a desired location.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   receiving a cessation of movement command from the user indicating that

3   movement of the magnifier has ceased; and

4   in response to the cessation of movement command, restoring the

5   magnification factor of the magnifier to an original magnification factor.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the movement command is a

2   mouse drag event and the cessation of movement command is a mouse button up

3   event.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein when the magnification factor is

2   reduced, the method further comprises visually indicating a boundary of a

3   magnified region within the magnifier, wherein the magnified region becomes

4   visible in magnified form when the magnification factor is restored to an original

5   magnification factor.

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1   5.   The method of claim 4, wherein visually indicating the boundary of

2   the magnified region involves modifying the appearance of regions within the

3   magnifier that are located outside of the magnified region, wherein the

4   modification involves grey shading, modifying color or modifying translucence.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein reducing the magnification factor

2   involves reducing the magnification factor to one so that the magnifier no longer

3   obscures portions of the field of view located under the magnifier.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the movement command is a

2   command that selects the magnifier in preparation for moving the magnifier.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein reducing the magnification factor

2   involves reducing the magnification factor by a factor that is proportionate to a

3   drag speed of the magnifier, whereby the faster the magnifier is moved, the more

4   the magnification level is reduced.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the magnifier is a window that the

2   user can move about the field of view.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the field of view is a display for a

2   computational device.

1   11.   A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that

2   when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for

3   facilitating magnification of a target region through use of a magnifier, wherein a

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4   magnification level of the magnifier is coupled to motion of the magnifier within

5   a field of view, the method comprising:

6   receiving a movement command from a user to move a location of the

7   magnifier within the field of view; and

8   in response to the movement command, reducing the magnification factor

9   of the magnifier, so that a larger portion of the field of view becomes visible

10 within the magnifier to facilitate navigating the magnifier to a desired location

11 within the field of view.

1   12.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the

2   method further comprises:

3   receiving a cessation of movement command from the user indicating that

4   movement of the magnifier has ceased; and

5   in response to the cessation of movement command, restoring the

6   magnification factor of the magnifier to an original magnification factor.

1   13.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the

2   movement command is a mouse drag event and the cessation of movement

3   command is a mouse button up event.

1   14.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein when

2   the magnification factor is reduced, the method further comprises visually

3   indicating a boundary of a magnified region within the magnifier, wherein the

4   magnified region becomes visible in magnified form when the magnification

5   factor is restored to an original magnification factor.

1   15.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein

2 visually indicating the boundary of the magnified region involves modifying the

3 appearance of regions within the magnifier that are located outside of the

4 magnified region, wherein the modification involves grey shading, modifying

5 color or modifying translucence.

1   16.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein

2 reducing the magnification factor involves reducing the magnification factor to

3 one so that the magnifier no longer obscures portions of the field of view located

4 under the magnifier.

1   17.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the

2 movement command is a command that selects the magnifier in preparation for

3 moving the magnifier.

1   18.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein

2 reducing the magnification factor involves reducing the magnification factor by a

3 factor that is proportionate to a drag speed of the magnifier, whereby the faster the

4 magnifier is moved, the more the magnification level is reduced.

1   19.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the

2 magnifier is a window that the user can move about the field of view.

1   20.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the

2 field of view is a display for a computational device.

1   21.   An apparatus that facilitates magnification of a target region within

2   a display, comprising:

3   a computational device;

4   the display within the computational device;

5   a magnifier within the display;

6   a user interface that is configured to receive a movement command from a

7   user to move a location of the magnifier within the display; and

8   wherein in response to the movement command, the magnifier is

9   configured to reduce a magnification factor associated with the magnifier, so that

10   a larger portion of the display becomes visible within the magnifier to facilitate

11   navigating the magnifier to a desired location within the display.

1   22.   The apparatus of claim 21,

2   wherein the user interface is additionally configured to receive a cessation

3   of movement command from the user indicating that movement of the magnifier

4   has ceased; and

5   wherein in response to the cessation of movement command, the magnifier

6   is configured to restore the magnification factor to an original magnification

7   factor.

1   23.   The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the movement command is a

2   mouse drag event and the cessation of movement command is a mouse button up

3   event.

1   24.   The apparatus of claim 21, wherein when the magnification factor

2   is reduced, the magnifier is configured to visually indicate a boundary of a

3   magnified region within the magnifier, wherein the magnified region becomes

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4   visible in magnified form when the magnification factor is restored to an original

5   magnification factor.

1   25.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein while visually indicating the

2   boundary of the magnified region, the magnifier is configured to modify the

3   appearance of regions within the magnifier that are located outside of the

4   magnified region, wherein the modification involves grey shading, modifying

5   color or modifying translucence.

1   26.   The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the magnifier is configured to

2   reduce the magnification factor to one, so that the magnifier no longer obscures

3   portions of the display located under the magnifier.

1   27.   The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the movement command is a

2   command that selects the magnifier in preparation for moving the magnifier.

1   28.   The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the magnifier is configured to

2   the magnification factor by a factor that is proportionate to a drag speed of the

3   magnifier, whereby the faster the magnifier is moved, the more the magnification

4   level is reduced.

1   29.   The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the magnifier is a window that

2   the user can move about the display.

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